



CELEBRATING-OUR-SESQUICENTENNIAL

DECEMBER 2008

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HEALTHY LIVING

CREEKSIDE HOSTS WELLNESS FAIR



BLOOMINGTON HUMAN SERVICES, Parks and Recreation, and Public Health are joining forces with the College of St. Catherine's Physical Therapy Department to present an important health and wellness fair at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South, on **Wednesday, January 14, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.** The event is free to residents.

For more information, call *Ask the City* at 952-563-4957 V/TTY.

PLANNING A TRIP?

PASSPORT SERVICES AVAILABLE

ARE YOU PLANNING A TRIP where you will need a passport? The City Clerk's Office, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, is a designated Passport Acceptance Facility. Passport applications and passport photo services are available. For more information, call 952-563-4923 or visit the City's website at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword: Passport.

NATIONAL AWARDS

CITY PUBLICATIONS HONORED

BLOOMINGTON'S NEWSLETTERS are among the best in the nation. The City was an Award of Excellence winner in the categories of internal and external newsletters at this year's City-County Communications and Marketing Association Savvy Awards contest in Lake Tahoe, Nevada.

Judges described the *Briefing* as "a great effort" that was also "very informative with an appealing design."

Bloomington has captured awards in this prestigious national competition every year since 1999, for a total of 20 awards, more than any other city or county in Minnesota.

BLOOMINGTON-YESTERDAY



In 1962, Donaldson moved its general office to Bloomington and the company has since entered a number of industrial markets.

DONALDSON COMPANY

A BLOOMINGTON INSTITUTION FOR NEARLY 50 YEARS

THE DONALDSON COMPANY has a long and prosperous history in Bloomington. As our city celebrates its sesquicentennial, Donaldson approaches its centennial, half of which was spent in Bloomington.

W.H.L. Donaldson, the first family member to arrive in Minnesota from Scotland, settled in Rochester in the late 1800s and soon found success running a hardware and tin shop. One of his five children, Frank Donaldson, Sr., graduated from the University of Minnesota with an engineering degree. After he developed an air cleaner to solve a farmer's tractor problems in 1915, he founded the Donaldson Company in St. Paul. In the late 1920s, crop fires caused by engine sparks fueled a demand for exhaust products. Success and innovation in agricultural equipment led directly to opportunities in the construction, mining and, later, over-the-road truck markets.

Today, the Donaldson Company has more than 13,000 employees and operations in 37 countries, yet it still calls Bloomington home.

LYNDALE AVENUE BRIDGE PROJECT BEGINS CONSTRUCTION WILL REPLACE BRIDGE OVER I-494

THE I-494/LYNDALE AVENUE Interchange Project will reconstruct the Lyndale Avenue interchange into a design similar to the Penn Avenue interchange.

The interchange is being rebuilt to conform to current construction standards and to reduce motorist delays. Construction began in October to replace the Lyndale Avenue bridge over I-494 in Richfield and Bloomington. A new bridge will be built by Lunda Construction of Wisconsin. Although construction is currently underway, the existing bridge will not be torn down until January 2009. The bridge is expected to be completed by fall 2009.



TRAFFIC RELIEF IS COMING I-35W CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS

Improvements will be made to the I-35W corridor stretching from Minneapolis to Lakeville. The City of Bloomington and Hennepin County are part of the Urban Partnership Agreement, a U.S. Department of Transportation initiative to provide innovative choices in traffic congestion relief through tolls, transit, technology and telecommuting.

Preliminary work has already begun. Look for a progress report in the February *Briefing*.

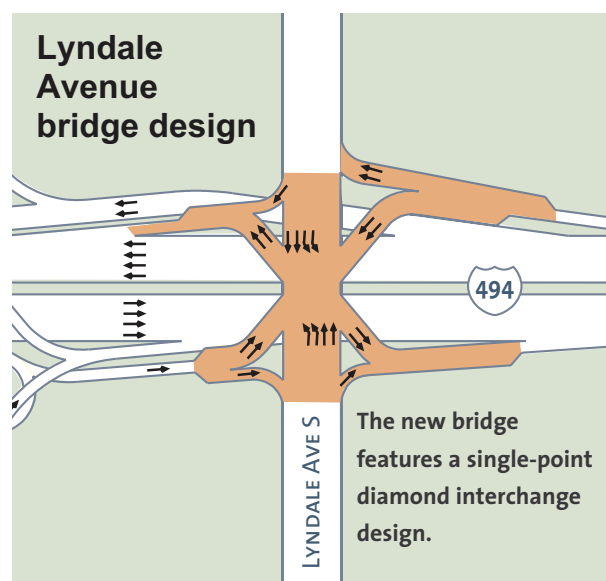
The new construction will include several special features such as street lights and landscaping at all four corners of the bridge. In addition, the interchange will:

- Improve traffic flow on Lyndale Avenue by providing turn lanes.
- Reduce motorist delays by removing one signal.
- Provide standard clearance over I-494. The new interchange/bridge is

the third step in a plan, following upgrades to Penn Avenue and 76th Street and is consistent with future plans to reconstruct the I-494/I-35W interchange.

The exit and entrance ramps at Lyndale Avenue will be closed during construction through October 30, 2009. The closures are subject to change by the contractor. The interchange will be completed and reopened to traffic in early November 2009.

To minimize disruption to local businesses, this project is on an accelerated schedule. The primary



detour route will be Nicollet Avenue and American Boulevard.

The reconstruction is the latest in ongoing improvements planned by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) along the I-494 corridor. The project is a joint effort between the City of Bloomington, City of Richfield and MnDOT.

For more information, contact Deputy Director of Public Works Jim Gates at 952-563-8730 or visit www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/lyndalebridge.



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BLOOMINGTON'S ROAD MAP TO SUCCESS

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PROVIDES A CLEAR DIRECTION FOR THE FUTURE

By Mayor Gene Winstead

WHEN EMBARKING on a road trip, a road map serves as an important directional tool for an efficient journey – in terms of cost, time and a quality experience. The same is true for a city's trip into the future. In this case, the road map is Bloomington's *Comprehensive Plan*, which has been used for nearly 50 years with great success.

The Plan is a statement of Bloomington's goals and objectives with regard to land use, housing, transportation, parks, environmental resources, airport impact, utilities, and other related elements. It outlines where Bloomington stands today as a city and where it desires to be in the future, along with recommendations on how to reach desired objectives. Comprehensive planning begins with creating a community vision and establishing guiding goals and strategies and ends with implementation.

Since 1967, the *Comprehensive Plan* has played a significant part in the success Bloomington has enjoyed to date. Examples can be seen throughout the city:

- A balance of commercial and residential property values, results in one of the lowest property tax rates for populations more than 20,000 in Hennepin County.



Household, population and employment forecasts

Year	Households	Population	Employment
2010	37,141	86,787	108,118
2020	39,371	90,542	124,700
2030	40,536	92,477	135,214

The *Comprehensive Plan* uses statistical forecasts as guides.

- One-third of the city is set aside for parks and open spaces, including several parks of significance to the metro area.
- Natural drainage systems and wetlands are preserved in the Nine Mile Creek and Minnesota River watersheds.
- A mix of owner-occupied and rental housing includes a wide variety of housing options for growing families and older adults.
- An efficient and cost-effective street system provides easy access to regional highways.

To continue to grow and succeed on our journey into the future, we must occasionally adjust the road map. Currently, the City is in the process of

updating its *Comprehensive Plan*, which was last revised in 2000. Updating the Plan is required by Minnesota state law. Updates must be approved by the Metropolitan Council and be consistent with adopted regional plans.

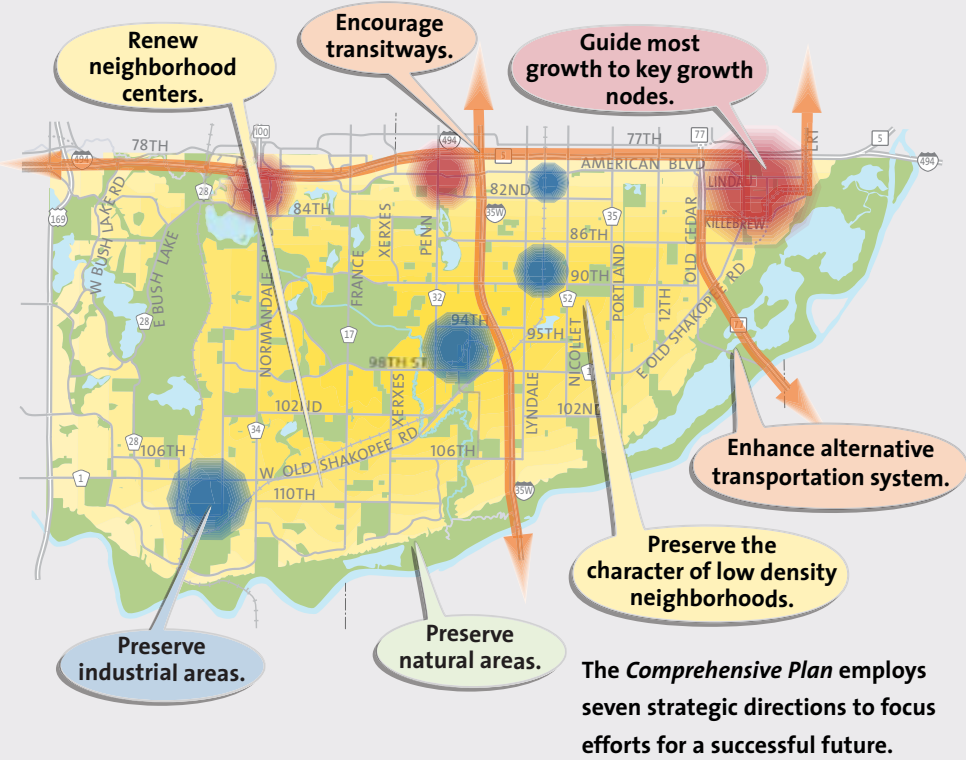
The plan update is scheduled for completion by the end of the year. You may view the plan online at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Comprehensive plan.

For more information, e-mail Senior Planner Glen Markegard at gmarkegard@ci.bloomington.mn.us or call 952-563-8923.



MAPPING THE ROUTE

Among the most difficult decisions the City Council faces are those where a change in land use is proposed. The decision involves balancing long-term community direction, the landowner's property rights and the desires of the community. While the easy road is often the status quo, the Council is aware that communities must change to move ahead. The *Comprehensive Plan* and its *Land Use Guide Map* are tools to positively affect change.



The *Comprehensive Plan* employs seven strategic directions to focus efforts for a successful future.

SEVENTEEN YEAR VETERAN OF FORCE PROMOTED

JEFFREY POTTS COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE IN HIS NEW ROLE AS CHIEF OF POLICE

THE BLOOMINGTON Police Department (BPD) has a new leader in its ranks. Jeffrey Potts was appointed Bloomington Chief of Police in November. Potts, a former commander of police patrol operations for Bloomington, has been with the City since 1991. Potts has served as police officer, sergeant and commander. He holds a master's degree in police administration from the University of St. Thomas and is also a graduate of the FBI National Academy in

Virginia. Potts will oversee a staff of 148 employees and an annual operating budget of approximately \$18 million. "I am honored to be selected as the next Chief of Police," Potts said. "I have always been extremely proud to be a part of the BPD and I will work hard to ensure that the department continues to deliver excellent police service to the citizens of Bloomington." Potts succeeds former Chief John Laux who retired in October.



Chief of Police Jeffrey Potts.

BRIEFING

Volume 16, Number 6

The *Briefing*, published bimonthly by the City of Bloomington, is mailed to our residents and businesses. Direct comments and requests for Braille, larger print or computer disk to Communications Administrator Janine Hill, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Rd., Bloomington MN 55431-3027; PH 952-563-8819; TTY 952-563-8740; FAX 952-563-8715; E-MAIL jhill@ci.bloomington.mn.us.
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The City of Bloomington complies with all applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its services, programs, or activities. Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Bloomington services, programs, and activities. The City has designated coordinators to facilitate compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), and to coordinate compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations. For more information, contact the Human Services Division, City of Bloomington, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN 55431-3027; (952)563-8733 (Voice); 952-563-8740 (TTY).

Upon request, this information can be available in Braille, large print, audio tape and/or electronic format.

CHECK OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING

CONVENIENT ACCESS TO DEVELOPMENT DETAILS
CITY'S INTERACTIVE MAPS DESCRIBE PLANS IN PROGRESS

WANT TO KNOW what's happening in your neighborhood? It's easy to find the most current information on development plans and proposals on the City's website. Information on *Comprehensive Plan* changes, rezoning, use permits and variances is listed from the time an application is received until several months after the City Council decides the outcome. Data includes applicant information, the staff report to the Planning Commission and City Council, and detailed project descriptions. Projects are classified as:

- R** **Residential** – multifamily, rental, townhomes.

P **Public** – publicly funded developments.

Q **Quasi-public** – institutions, schools.
- C** **Commercial** – retail, hotels, shopping areas.

O **Office** – office buildings.

I **Industrial** – warehouses, industrial.
- M** **Mixed use** – multiuse projects.

For more information, call Planning and Economic Development at 952-563-8920.



INFORMING RESIDENTS

The City has instituted a new procedure to keep residents up-to-date on major land use changes to properties. A sign must be installed on a site where a comprehensive plan change, rezoning or conditional use permit application is being processed. As you drive within your neighborhood, watch for these signs.



NEW RESIDENTIAL PROJECTS POPPING UP AROUND TOWN
DEVELOPMENTS ENHANCE BLOOMINGTON'S HOUSING OPTIONS

WHETHER IT'S an assisted living environment or a 55-and-older community, developers are responding to a demand for more accessible, senior-friendly housing. There are more than 1,800 senior independent living units

in Bloomington and plans are currently underway for more in all parts of the city. The following residential developments have been approved or are in the process of being reviewed. All are scheduled for occupancy by 2010.

- The Village on Nine Mile Creek Apartments – 2215 West Old Shakopee Road.
 - New rental housing is also anticipated at two locations. These apartments will be for all ages.
 - The Luxembourg – 5100 West 82nd Street.
 - Covington – 5701 Green Valley Drive.
- In addition, Martin Luther Manor, 1301 and 1401 East 100th Street, plans to rebuild and renovate its existing 137-bed, skilled-nursing facility.
- For more information, contact Planner Londell Pease at 952-563-8926 or visit the City's Development Directory at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Residential development.



Rendering of Applewood Pointe Southtown.

- Portland Commons – 8735 Portland Avenue.
- Bloomington Bethany Senior Housing – 6600 and 6820 Auto Club Road.
- Applewood Pointe Southtown Senior Cooperative – 2600 West 82nd Street, *see left*.
- Penelope 35 Apartments Phase II – 10601 Beard Avenue.

REDEVELOPMENTS REVITALIZE A NEIGHBORHOOD
FRANCE AVENUE AND OLD SHAKOPEE ROAD TO SEE MORE IMPROVEMENTS

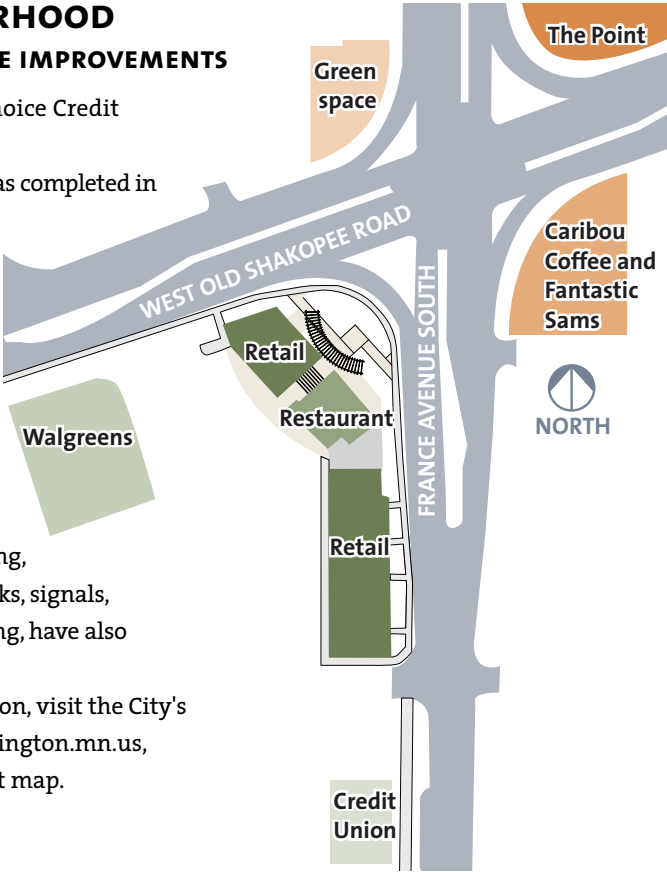
THE SITE OF the old Bloomdale Shopping Center on the southwest corner of France Avenue and Old Shakopee Road is slated for private redevelopment. Several buildings on the site have been razed to make room for new construction. Preliminary plans include 36,724 square feet of retail space and 10,000 square feet of office space. The property is owned by three developers. A Walgreens pharmacy is under construction and will be completed by late spring 2009. Another developer intends to construct a building similar to The Point, the retail and office development on the northeast corner of France Avenue and Old Shakopee Road. This building will include a restaurant and general retail. The third building, south of the restaurant and retail buildings, will be

occupied by the Star Choice Credit Union. *See map right.*

The Point, which was completed in 2006, consists of an 18,000-square-foot building that faces France Avenue and an 8,000-square-foot building fronting Old Shakopee Road.

Public improvements, including street widening, new turn lanes, sidewalks, signals, medians and landscaping, have also enhanced the area.

For more information, visit the City's website, www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Development map.



OLD CEDAR AVENUE BRIDGE
RESTORING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

A FEASIBILITY STUDY is being conducted by the City of Bloomington to determine if the Old Cedar Avenue bridge, constructed in 1920 to connect communities on either side of the Minnesota River Valley, will be rehabilitated or replaced.

"The bridge has served the public well during its long and useful life," Deputy Director of Public Works Jim Gates said. "The refurbished structure or a suitable alternative will further serve the public for years to come as a regional asset for the many users of the Minnesota River Valley."

Once an important river crossing, the historic five-section, steel-truss bridge has deteriorated to the point where it is unsafe and unusable. In 1993, the bridge became unstable for vehicles and the City restricted use to bicycles and pedestrians. At that time, the City and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Refuge also purchased the Pahl family's sweet corn fields south of the bridge, creating a continuous refuge in the river valley. The bridge was closed completely in 2002 after an independent inspection.

Bloomington has taken the lead to restore this important regional connection. Design options, now being determined by the feasibility study, will remove the existing dilapidated structure and include a new pedestrian bridge on the existing piers and parallel boardwalk. Once constructed, the City plans to transfer ownership to an appropriate regional, state or federal agency.



TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE RECYCLING TRUE OR FALSE

RECYCLING IS EASY. Most disposal companies use either a single-sort method – combine all recyclables into one container – or a two-sort method – separate recyclables into fibers and containers.

RECYCLING QUIZ

- 1** Extra recycling bins are available if I need them.
- 2** Twin Cities metro area residents recycle 1 million pounds of paper weekly.
- 3** The recycling industry creates jobs.
- 4** I shouldn't recycle my mail if I'm concerned about protecting my identity.
- 5** I should remove all labels before recycling bottles and cans.
- 6** Some recycling centers require me to remove the plastic caps from bottles before I recycle them.
- 7** Any paper container not stored in the fridge or freezer can be recycled.

ANSWERS

- 1 True.** Extra 95 gallon containers are available or you may request an additional regular size bin.
- 2 False.** Metro residents recycle almost 1 million pounds of paper every single day.
- 3 True.** More than 19,000 jobs in Minnesota are involved in recycling. Recycling creates four jobs for every one job created in the waste management industry.
- 4 False.** Mail and other paper are no safer in the trash. If you shred your paper, you can still recycle it. Place it in a closed paper bag and label it "shredded paper."
- 5 False.** Labels are okay. Remove lids and rinse cans and bottles before throwing them in the recycling bin.
- 6 True.** However, you needn't remove the neck rings – the part of the bottle caps that are still on the bottlenecks – before you recycle your bottles.
- 7 True.** If the paper container didn't come out of your fridge or freezer, you can recycle it.

Whether it's saving energy or guarding precious natural resources, these individuals are making a difference in Bloomington...

EARTH ACTION HEROES 494 COMMUTER CRUSADERS

IN 2008, the I-494 Corridor Commission's Commuter Services saw a 2,500 percent increase in requests for services. Executive Director Melissa Madison, *photo below*, attributes this to three factors: (1) the rising cost of fuel; (2) people's desire to reduce their carbon footprint; and (3) fitting exercise into a busy day.

Madison said 494 Commuter Services' main goal is to remove obstacles that stand in the way of a person choosing an alternate form of commuting.

"We don't just send you a map and have you find your own way; we provide all the resources you need to get from your driveway to work," Madison said.

According to Laura McGee, who commutes from Farmington to NorthMarq Capital in Bloomington via bicycle, this includes personalized routes, maps, road rules and safety tips.

"I learned about the Bike2Benefits program



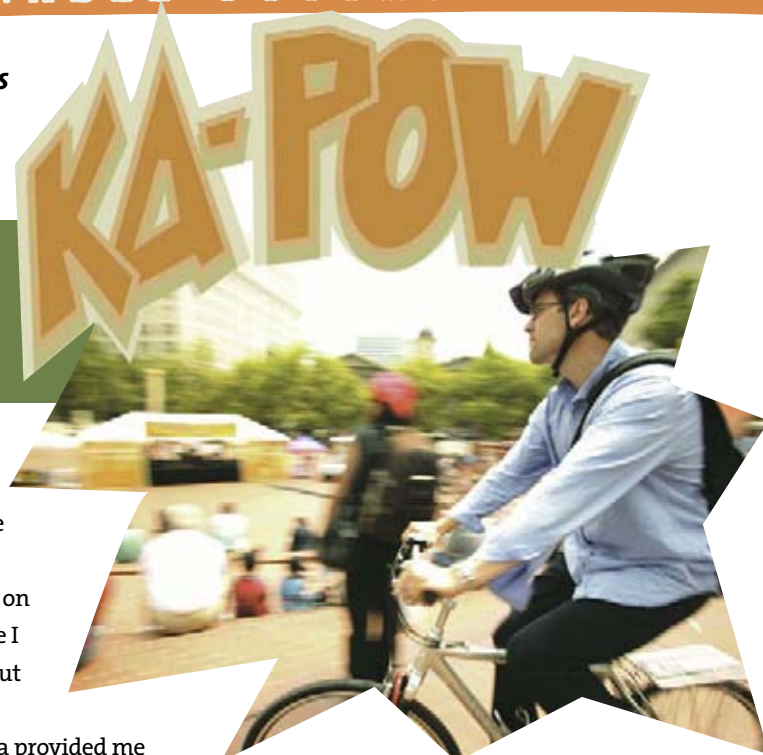
through a presentation at work," McGee said. "I wasn't completely sold on the idea because I was unsure about which route to take, but Melissa provided me with the best route to avoid traffic and connect to bike trails."

McGee's 65-mile round-trip commute has also inspired others.

"I have friends and coworkers who are now trying to bike to work," McGee said. "It's such a great way to 'go green,' save money and get healthy at the same time."

Mike Gilman decided to try carpooling from his Maple Grove home to his job at Thermo King in Bloomington after realizing how many single-occupant cars there were on the road. Gilman requested a Ridematch Report from 494 Commuter Services, which searches a database of 23,000 commuters looking to be matched into a carpool.

"I received an e-mail from a person who lives in my area and commutes into Bloomington," Gilman said. "Her office is only three blocks away from mine."



Once they got to know each other's routines and driving habits it became a very enjoyable experience.

"In addition to the lively conversation, my gas bill is half of what it was just two years ago," Gilman said.

A federal grant was recently awarded to 494 Commuter Services to help companies in Bloomington, Richfield, Edina, Eden Prairie, Minnetonka and Plymouth develop telework programs.

The I-494 Corridor Commission, one of the City's partner organizations, addresses concerns about traffic congestion along the I-494 corridor and encourages economic growth and regional prosperity through improved transportation options.

For more information, visit www.494corridor.org.

SUSTAINABLE BLOOMINGTON

PERMEABLE PARKING LOT INSTALLED

STORM WATER RUNOFF REDUCED AT HARRISON PARK

THIS FALL, in keeping with the City's commitment to sustainability, a permeable asphalt parking lot and rain garden were installed at Harrison Park on 1701 West 100th Street.

According to Civil Engineer Steven Segar, the asphalt differs from standard asphalt in that it contains very little of the fine aggregate that normally creates a dense, impervious pavement.

"The asphalt looks very coarse and it is slightly more difficult for construction workers to get a polished smooth

surface," Segar said. "Yet, a preliminary test demonstrated that a container of water, when poured directly onto the pavement, flowed right through."

The porous asphalt and rock base layers are designed to infiltrate storm water and minimize runoff that pollutes nearby Nine Mile Creek, reducing annual runoff by 90 percent. A monitoring plan will confirm the performance.

Two rain gardens, one by the center parking median and one just off



the entrance to Nine Mile Creek Trail, were also installed to collect storm water runoff.

In addition, no sand or salt are required for winter maintenance. A plow will remove excess snow; the remaining snow will melt into the pavement.

For more information, contact Steven Segar at 952-563-4533.



LOW-MAINTENANCE GRASS BEING TESTED SLOW GROWING FESCUE GRASS PLANTED AT CIVIC PLAZA

A NEW BREED OF GRASS, comprised of several types of fescue, is being tested at Civic Plaza.

According to Park Maintenance Supervisor Dave Hanson, the grass requires very little fertilizer, water and sunlight to grow, which makes it more environmentally friendly and low-maintenance.

"The fescue grass needs little to survive, so it doesn't grow very quickly,

making weekly mowing a thing of the past," Hanson said. "Rather than weekly mowing, we will most likely be cutting this grass only once or twice a year."

If the grass survives the winter at Civic Plaza, the City plans to plant more test plots in the spring at various low-traffic park areas throughout the city.

For more information, contact Dave Hanson at 952-563-8765.

HUMAN SERVICES NEWS

GROCERIES AT YOUR DOORSTEP STORE TO DOOR PROGRAM DELIVERS

OLDER ADULTS and people with disabilities are invited to participate in the Store to Door program, which allows eligible residents to order groceries and prescription medications to be delivered to their homes by Bloomington Human Services volunteers. Deliveries occur every Thursday. Delivery charges apply. To register, call Store to Door at 651-642-1892.

BROWSE THE BOUTIQUE FOR HOLIDAY GIFTS SHOP CREEKSIDE

VISIT THE CREEKSIDE BOUTIQUE, 9801 Penn Avenue South, to find that “one-of-a-kind” gift. The gift shop sells quality, handmade items, such as quilts, dolls, ornaments and more, which are crafted by local residents.

The Boutique is open weekdays, 10 - 11:45 a.m. and 12:30 - 2:45 p.m., Tuesday evenings, 6 - 8 p.m., and Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. - noon.



COMING SOON ANALOG-TO-DIGITAL TV TRANSITION

AS OF FEBRUARY 17, 2009, all televisions will broadcast only in digital. Residents, who rely on antennas (including outside antennas and “rabbit ears”) to receive broadcast signals, will need to obtain separate digital-to-analog converter boxes to watch over-the-air TV.

These boxes receive digital signals and convert them into analog format for display on analog TVs. Analog sets connected to such converter boxes will display digital broadcasts, but not necessarily in full, original digital

quality. All other TV components, such as VCRs and DVD players will work as they did before the conversion.

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration is offering converter box coupons through March 31, 2009. Households may request up to two coupons, worth \$40 each, to be used toward the purchase of up to two digital-to-analog converter boxes.

For more information, visit the City’s website at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword: DTV.



ON PATROL



DON’T BE A TARGET FOR CRIME MAKE HOLIDAY SAFETY A PRIORITY

THE HOLIDAY SEASON is upon us. During this time of the year, there is usually an increase in thefts. Criminals like easy targets. You can keep this season full of joy by implementing the following safety tips.

While shopping:

- Use the buddy system and shop with a friend. Criminals target lone shoppers.
- Park your vehicle in well-lit areas.
- Avoid overloading yourself with packages.
- Keep register receipts in your purse or wallet. If someone steals your package, this will make it harder for the thief to return it to the store.

At home:

- Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave the house.
- If you will be gone for an extended time, leave a radio on and place indoor lights on an automatic timer to give the impression that someone is home.
- Displays of gifts should not be visible through the windows and doorways.
- Be aware that criminals sometimes pose as couriers or partygoers looking for an address. Write down license plate numbers of vehicles that come to ‘the wrong address.’

Remember, you can never be too careful, prepared or aware. For more information, visit the City’s website at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Holiday safety.

DEFINING THE EDGE NEW FENCE REQUIREMENTS



THE CITY COUNCIL is scheduled to consider an ordinance amendment in December that describes requirements and design standards for fences on residential and commercial properties. The new provisions will only apply to fences installed after January 1, 2009.

Look for more details in the February *Briefing*. For more information, visit the City’s website at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword: Fence.

PUBLIC HEALTH IN THE SPOTLIGHT

COMMUNITY HEALTH LEADER HONORED KAREN ZELEZNAK FOCUSES ON INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY

BLOOMINGTON HEALTH ADMINISTRATOR Karen Zeleznak was recently awarded the *Jim Parker Leadership Award* for demonstrated leadership in community health services.

“Bloomington is extremely fortunate to have Karen Zeleznak as administrator of our Public Health Division,” Councilmember Karen Nordstrom said. “She is held in high esteem by all who have worked with her.”

Recipients of the prestigious award are chosen based on demonstrated innovation in community health services and their ability to develop creative solutions to public health problems, shape public health policy and practices, and promote collaboration among various groups.

The *Jim Parker Leadership Award* is presented in memory of Jim Parker, who was the director of the Community Health Services Division in the



Karen Zeleznak, left, poses with Councilmember Karen Nordstrom.

Minnesota Department of Health from 1984 until his death in 1991.

GRANTS TO HELP FIGHT TEEN SUBSTANCE ABUSE PUBLIC HEALTH MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY

BLOOMINGTON PUBLIC HEALTH was recently awarded two health grants geared at reducing underage drinking and substance abuse.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

(SAMHSA) awarded \$125,000 to fund programs that teach the dangers of

alcohol and drug use to youth in Bloomington, Edina and Richfield.

“One hundred twenty-five thousand dollars is a small amount of money to tackle a large concern,” Health Promotion and Planning Manager Eileen O’Connell said. “But it will help to jump-start things.”

According to a 2007 Minnesota Student Survey, 21 percent of Bloomington, Edina and Richfield 12th graders reported they had driven a motor vehicle after using alcohol or other drugs during the past year.

Public Health also received a grant from Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking (STOP) for \$50,000, with the opportunity to reapply every year for three years after the initial funding is granted.

According to O’Connell, the STOP grant will enhance and strengthen current efforts by the City to reduce underage drinking by working with the hospitality industry and neighborhood watch groups.

For more information, call Eileen O’Connell at 952-563-4964.



CONTACT PARKS AND RECREATION AT 952-563-8877 FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE EVENTS.

MINI-SPORTS SAMPLER
KIDS CAN EXPLORE A VARIETY OF SPORTS

An introductory sports program designed for children, ages 4 - 6 years, Mini-Sports Sampler helps children explore baseball, soccer, lacrosse, flag football and basketball in a fun and noncompetitive setting. Sessions begin in November and run through May. For more information, call Parks and Recreation.



TUMBLING ABOUT
L'IL FLIPSTERS GYMNASTICS

L'il Flipsters Gymnastics is back. For children, ages 2 - 4 years, this mobile gymnastics organization is dedicated to providing the highest quality gymnastics training and motor skill development in a safe and fun environment. **New sessions begin every month through May 2009.** Classes are held at Bloomington Ice Garden, 3600 West 98th Street, Tuesday or Wednesday morning or Friday morning or afternoon. For more information, call Parks and Recreation.

YOUTH WINTER SPORTS



For fun youth winter sports opportunities, call the Bloomington Athletic Association's Information Hotline at 952-888-0807 or visit www.baaonline.org.

BORN AGAIN JOCKS

The Born Again Jocks Volleyball League welcomes men, 55 years and over, with any level of playing ability. For more information, call Dick Wortman at 952-888-1814.

When: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Time: Warm-up 8:45 a.m.
Games 9 a.m.

Where: Jefferson H. S. Activity Center, 102nd Street and France Avenue South.

FRESH AIR AND FITNESS

CRUNCHING SNOW, CRISP AIR AND ROSY CHEEKS
WINTER GAMES AND ACTIVITIES FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY



JOIN BLOOMINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION and area sponsors in welcoming winter during the 7th Annual Winter Fete celebration. This year, Winter Fete activities will take place throughout the city from **Friday, February 6, through Sunday, February 8.** Enjoy the Mites Hockey Exhibition, the Chilly Chili Bike Race, the Pond-Dakota Winter History Festival and other great events during this weekend celebration.

All Winter Fete activities are free, unless otherwise noted, and fun for the whole family! For more information, call Parks and Recreation or visit www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Winter Fete.

“FIT CITY” MONIKER FITS BLOOMINGTON
CITY RECOGNIZED FOR LEADERSHIP IN HEALTH AND FITNESS

GOVERNOR TIM PAWLENTY and the Governor's Health Cabinet recently designated Bloomington a Governor's Fit City for its efforts to encourage health and fitness in the community.

“The leaders of Bloomington have made a strong commitment to provide physical activity opportunities for people in their city,” Governor Pawlenty said. “This commitment will help keep Bloomington residents healthy for years to come.”

Commissioner of Health Dr. Sanne Magnan, *photo right*, presented a Governor's Fit City plaque to the Bloomington City Council.

The Minnesota Department of Health criteria to qualify as a “Fit City” include whether a city has created inviting places to walk, adopted a value statement affirming the importance of fitness, sponsored at least one fitness activity and developed recreation areas that encourage fitness.

Bloomington has implemented a number of different ways to promote physical activity, which include:

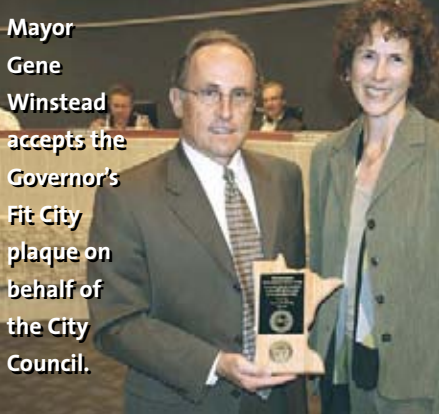
- Ensuring that physical activities and facilities (parks, recreation centers, trails) are accessible, safe and affordable.
- Encouraging development patterns that consider pedestrians and bicyclists.

SAFETY AS A PRIORITY
SOUTH METRO PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING

THE SOUTH METRO PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING FACILITY, 7525 Braemar Boulevard, Edina, opens its 12-lane firing range to the public for target shooting on Saturdays, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. Targets and eye and ear protection are available on site.

South Metro is a joint project of the cities of Bloomington, Eden Prairie and Edina and the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport Police Department. The facility provides police and fire training opportunities in a 28,000-square-foot, two-building campus.

For more information, visit www.southmetrotraining.com or call 952-653-0671.



- Requiring building and landscape features that promote physical activity.
 - Developing and incorporating trails and bike paths into the community.
- The Governor's Fit City initiative is part of an overall push by Governor Pawlenty to encourage fitness.
- For more information on upcoming recreational and fitness programs offered by the City or visit the City's website at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Parks and recreation.

GET MOVING AT THE HOLIDAY FITNESS PARTY
HAVE FUN WHILE BURNING THE CALORIES

Get in the spirit with a festive holiday exercise class, **Wednesday, December 17, 9 a.m.**, at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South. The fun begins with a healthy morning snack and social time, followed by a fitness fusion class. To register, call Parks and Recreation or e-mail parksrec@ci.bloomington.mn.us.



GET TOGETHER IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS
ROAST WIENERS! LAUGH WITH FRIENDS! TAKE A HIKE!

PICNIC SHELTERS will soon be available to rent for next year's picnics, receptions, reunions or meetings. Registration begins January 2 for use April through mid-October. Shelters have electricity, grills, restrooms and drinking fountains. In addition, City parks offer playground equipment, volleyball and horseshoe courts, walking trails and softball fields. Reduced rates are available for nonprofit Bloomington youth groups. For more information, visit www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword: Picnic.

- MOIR PARK**
104th Street at Morgan Avenue.
- Shelter 1: Accommodates 200+. \$201 + tax.
- Shelter 2: Accommodates 50. \$137 + tax.
- WEST BUSH LAKE PARK**
94th Street at West Bush Lake Road.
- Shelter 1: Accommodates 200. \$201 + tax.
- Shelter 2: Accommodates 100. \$137 + tax.
- EAST BUSH LAKE PARK**
9140 East Bush Lake Road
- Shelter 3: Accommodates 200. \$265 + tax.



CENTER - FOR - THE - ARTS

LOCATED IN **BLOOMINGTON CIVIC PLAZA** at the corner of West 98th Street and Old Shakopee Road, the Center for the Arts houses eight arts organizations. For facility information, call 952-563-8889. For exhibit information and events, call 952-563-8567 or visit the City’s website, www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword: Calendar.

EXHIBITIONS

BLOOMINGTON ART CENTER

952-563-8587

INEZ GREENBERG GALLERY

Wings, Words and Wires, featuring artist Erik Pearson, who created the Civic Plaza mural, runs through January 11.



Pumpkin Soup
by Erik Pearson.

GALLERY HOURS

Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday 1 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Distinguished Company: A Retrospective Exhibition of Works by Richard Lack, Don Koestner and Stephen Gjertson, runs **January 16 - February 20**. Artists’ reception is Friday, January 16, 6 - 8 p.m.

ATRIUM GALLERY, SECOND FLOOR
Bloomington Arts Center Instructor and Student Art Show, featuring works by instructors and their students, runs through **December 28**.

More Than Meets the Eye, featuring artists from the Fiber Art Study Group, runs **January 2 - March 1**.

SCHNEIDER THEATER

HANDEL’S MESSIAH

The Bloomington Chorale will perform this holiday classic, **Saturday, December 6, 7:30 p.m.** and **Sunday, December 7, 3 p.m.**

NUTCRACKER BALLET

Continental Ballet Company will present the *Nutcracker Ballet*, **Friday, December 12** and **Saturday, December 13, 7:30 p.m.** and **Sunday, December 14, 3 p.m.**

Tickets are \$24 adults; \$18 students/seniors. To purchase tickets, call 952-563-8562.

EDGEWATER EIGHT HOLIDAY CONCERT

Edgewater Eight, an energetic, jazzy and nostalgic performing ensemble will present a tasty mix of Broadway Christmas favorites, **Saturday, December 20, 7:30 p.m.**

BING CROSBY AND THE ANDREW SISTERS SWING REVUE

Join Kathy Mueller, Lisa Pallen, Aimee Fischer and Arne Fogel for jazz hits and holiday favorites delivered in the style made famous by Bing Crosby and the Andrews Sisters, **Sunday, December 21, 2 p.m.**



ROBERT ROBINSON
GOSPEL

Robert Robinson performs traditional and contemporary gospel, spirituals, hymns and showstoppers, **Saturday, January 10, 7:30 p.m.**

Unless otherwise noted, call the Box Office at 952-563-8575 for theater tickets.

BLACK BOX THEATER



BY CHARLES DICKENS

This holiday classic will be performed by the Gallery Theater Company, **Thursdays - Saturdays, December 4 - 20, 7:30 p.m.**, and **Sundays, December 7 - 21, 2 p.m.** Tickets are \$17 adults; \$15 students/seniors.

COMMUNITY ARTS

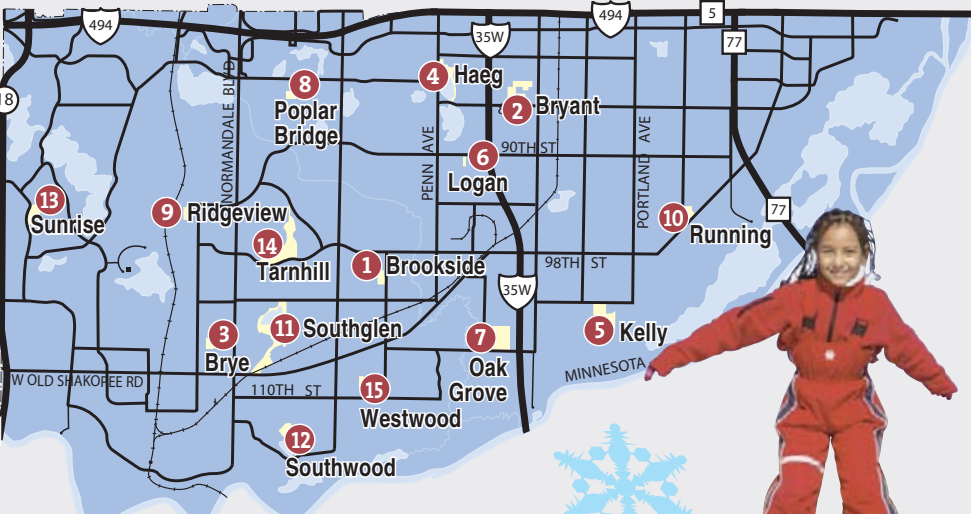


HOLIDAYS WITH ANGELICA

The Angelica Cantanti Youth Choirs present their annual winter holiday concert on **Sunday, December 14, 2:30 p.m.**, at St. Michael’s Lutheran Church, 9201 Normandale Boulevard. For more information, visit www.angelicacantanti.org. To audition, call 952-563-8572.

2008 - 2009 OUTDOOR SKATING RINKS

PARKS AND RECREATION will operate 15 outdoor ice skating sites this winter. During rink hours, all facilities will be lighted except for Logan Playlot. Some sites are supervised by a Parks and Recreation employee during public skating hours. *See below*. Weather permitting, **park shelters will be open Monday, December 15, 2008, through Monday, February 16, 2009**. For more information, call 952-563-8877. For up-to-date rink conditions and closings, call 952-563-8878 and select option 1.



LOCATIONS AND FEATURES

PARK	ADDRESS	STAFFING	RINK		
			General	Hockey	Floodlights
1 Brookside	10000 Xerxes Ave. S.	Daily*	•	•	•
2 Bryant	1001 W. 85th St.	Daily*	•	•	•
3 Brye	10500 Xavier Ave. S.	Daily*	•	•	•
4 Haeg	8301 Penn Ave. S.	Wednesdays	•	•	•
5 Kelly	185 E. 102nd St.	Tuesdays	•	•	•
6 Logan	1900 W. 91st St.	Not staffed	•		
7 Oak Grove	1301 W. 104th St.	Daily*	•	•	•
8 Poplar Bridge	4600 W. 85th St.	Daily*	•	•	•
9 Ridgeview	6001 W. 94th St.	Wednesdays	•	•	•
10 Running	9501 12th Ave. S.	Daily*	•	2	•
11 Southglen	10701 Rich Road	Thursdays	•	•	•
12 Southwood	4800 Terracewood Dr.	Fridays	•	•	•
13 Sunrise	9401 Blmgtn. Ferry Rd.	Daily*	•	•	•
14 Tarnhill	9650 Little Road	Mondays	•	•	•
15 Westwood	3490 W. 109th St.	Daily*	•	2	•

RINK HOURS

DAY OF WEEK	REGULAR	SCHOOL RELEASE DAYS
	December 15 - 19, 2008 January 5 - February 16, 2009	December 22 - January 2 January 26, February 13
M - F	4 - 9 p.m.	Noon - 9 p.m.
Sa - Su	Noon - 9 p.m.	Noon - 9 p.m.

*Shelters open **daily** will be staffed from 12 - 9 p.m. on the following holidays. All other rinks will have lights on.
December 24, 25 and 31, 2008
January 1 and 19, 2009.
February 16, 2009.

Hours are subject to change. Visit the City’s website or shelters for daily updates.



BLOOMINGTON ICE GARDEN INDOOR SKATING RINKS

THE BLOOMINGTON ICE GARDEN (BIG), 3600 West 98th Street, has three indoor ice rinks available for public skating and adult open hockey. Professional instructors offer a variety of skating lessons for children and adults. For more information, call 952-563-8842 or visit www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword: BIG.



SPRUCE UP YOUR HOME
HOME IMPROVEMENT LOANS

THE BLOOMINGTON HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (HRA) will accept applications through March 27, 2009, for its Home Improvement Deferred Loan Program.

Loans of up to \$35,000 are available to Bloomington homeowners. There are no monthly payments. Repayment occurs when the home is sold, transferred or conveyed. Interest is charged at an annual rate of 5 percent of the original loan principal for the first 10 years. No additional interest accrues after 10 years.

A lead risk assessment is required for all homes built before 1978.

Loans are offered to help maintain the condition of housing and neighborhoods. Applications are ranked and processed according to need.

Eligible repairs include replacing roofs, electrical, heating and plumbing systems, gutters, windows, doors, insulation, siding, soffits and fascia, exterior painting and foundation, sidewalk or step repairs.

Ineligible repairs include decorating, additions, finishing basements, remodeling and garage construction.

To apply for a Home Improvement Deferred Loan, you must be the owner-occupant of your home and have sufficient equity to cover the loan amount. *Income guidelines apply. See table below.*

INCOME GUIDELINES

Persons in household•	Maximum gross income••
1	\$43,050
2	\$49,200
3	\$55,350
4	\$61,500
5	\$66,400
6	\$71,350
7	\$76,250
8 or more	\$81,200

- Includes all residents of household, related and unrelated, including renters.
- Subject to change.



Loan applications will be accepted at the HRA office at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, until Friday, March 27, 2009. For more information or to receive an application, call 952-563-8937.

BLOOMINGTON MAKES ITS MOVIE DEBUT
COEN BROTHERS FILM AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN CITY

OSCAR-WINNING FILMMAKERS Joel and Ethan Coen, responsible for such noir classics as “Fargo” and “No Country for Old Men,” seem to be fond of Bloomington. They filmed at four locations in the city and have also enlisted many Bloomington residents, including Mayor Gene Winstead, to be extras in their latest creation, “A Serious Man.”

The film, set in a 1967 St. Louis Park neighborhood, is a tragicomedy about a professor whose life is falling apart.

Mayor Winstead, although he did not have a speaking role, was part of a scene shot at Normandale Community College. Normandale’s second-floor library overlooks a prairie.

Combined with the neighboring building’s low roof, this unique view has not changed in almost 40 years.

After visiting several golf courses, Dwan Golf Course was their first choice for shooting a golf scene.



“We were thrilled with Dwan, definitely one of the best kept city-owned courses that I have ever come across in my travels,” Bidner said.

said the Coen brothers chose 4th Avenue specifically for its great sightlines and well-maintained homes.

After an extensive search for a college that could be turned back to 1967, they chose Normandale Community College. Normandale’s second-floor library overlooks a prairie.

Combined with the neighboring building’s low roof, this unique view has not changed in almost 40 years.

After visiting several golf courses, Dwan Golf Course was their first choice for shooting a golf scene.



Ethan and Joel Coen engrossed in a scene being filmed at 4th Avenue in Bloomington.

It was the old sign at Great Bear Center on Lyndale Avenue that attracted the Coen brothers to film there.

“We had just scouted a great Chinese restaurant and we were driving by the Great Bear when the Coens pointed out this really unique sign from the car window,” Bidner said. “We made a U-turn and took a closer look.”

Perhaps Executive Producer Robert Graf summed it up best when he told a packed auditorium at Normandale Community College that filming in the Twin Cities suburbs was an extremely gratifying experience.

The filming of “A Serious Man” concluded in October. It is scheduled for release in September 2009.

The Coen brothers were thrilled to find the Dwan Golf Course. It was a perfect setting for the film.

HOLIDAY
SALES
PRICES!

LOOKING FOR GREAT HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS?
PURCHASE YOUR SESQUICENTENNIAL MEMENTOS

BLOOMINGTON SESQUICENTENNIAL memorabilia, including t-shirts, caps, commemorative coins and more, is available for purchase.



Pick up commemorative items at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. To view merchandise, visit the our website at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Logo items. Proceeds support Bloomington Sesquicentennial activities.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS OFFERED

Collectible spoons, lapel pins, sandstone coasters, ornaments and mouse pads, featuring the Sesquicentennial logo, are available for purchase from the City of Bloomington Employees’ Advisory Committee.

Purchase items in the Human Resources Department at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. To view merchandise, visit the City’s website at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Logo items.



NEW ADVANCES IN SNOWPLOWING
SNOW, ICE, NO MATCH FOR BLOOMINGTON STREET MAINTENANCE

STREET MAINTENANCE has been researching better methods of snow and ice control to improve safety in keeping with the City’s mission to provide quality service while moving toward a more sustainable community.

“The goal is to have the best snow removal program in the state,” Assistant Maintenance Superintendent Jim Eiler said. “To accomplish this, we’ve been researching different snow removal materials and chemical applications. Currently, we are experimenting with melting agents instead of the traditional salt and sand mix.”

According to Eiler, using melting agents exclusively will provide better traction and make snow and ice easier to remove.

Residents may also notice spots of brown salt this winter.

“We are treating salt with a brown coloring to help plow drivers see how much is applied,” Eiler said. “Treated salt can work in temperatures as low as five degrees. Salt alone only works when the temperature is above 15 degrees.”

The melting agents are environmentally safe and can result in a reduction in the amount of sand that must

be swept in the spring to prevent runoff from reaching our ponds and wetlands.

Street Maintenance has also started to “anti-ice” by applying liquid salt brine to roads just before a snowstorm which prevents snow and ice from bonding to the pavement.

New plow routes will also increase the efficiency and quality of snowplowing. The main arterial roads will now be plowed by two trucks in tandem.

For more information, visit www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Snow removal.